



# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Communications Commission**  
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**DA 02-1499**

**June 27, 2002**

## **Applications For Equipment Authorization**

### **Of Universal Shipborne Automatic Identification Systems**

#### **To be Coordinated with U.S. Coast Guard To Ensure Homeland Security**

The Commission's Part 80 rules governing stations in the Maritime Service require certification for various radio transmitters used on board ships and by coast stations. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) to which the U.S. is signatory, at its 73<sup>rd</sup> session (December 2000), adopted amendments to Chapter V of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention to require the installation of automatic identification systems (AIS) on ships. AIS devices transmit on maritime VHF frequencies (156-162 MHz) and thus will require Certification from the Commission.

AIS is intended to provide a ship's identity, position, course and speed among other things. The IMO amendments will enter into force with a phase in schedule that begins in July 2002. In addition, as a result of the events of September 11, the use of AIS has been identified to support Homeland Security.

The Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in PR docket 92-257 that addresses the certification requirements for AIS equipment.<sup>1</sup> During the pendency of the rule making, the FCC Laboratory will coordinate review of applications for certification of AIS equipment with the United States Coast Guard to ensure that the equipment meets all applicable international standards and requirements.<sup>2</sup>

The FCC has worked closely with the United States Coast Guard to ensure coordination for the certification of maritime safety of life equipment. For example, under Section 80.1061 of the rules, certification of emergency position indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs) is not granted until

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<sup>1</sup> See Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in PR Docket 92-257

<sup>2</sup> The International standards and requirements identified are: IMO Resolutions A.694(17) and MSC.74(69), Annex 3; ITU-R 1371-1; IEC standards IEC 60945, IEC 61162 and IEC 61993-2.

the Commission receives a letter from the U.S. Coast Guard stating that the device meets all pertinent requirements.

The staff of the FCC Laboratory and the United States Coast Guard will work closely with applicants for certification of AIS equipment to address any concerns that may arise.

Questions concerning AIS standards may be directed to Tim Maguire of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at [tmaguire@fcc.gov](mailto:tmaguire@fcc.gov) and concerning equipment authorization to Andrew Leimer at [aleimer@fcc.gov](mailto:aleimer@fcc.gov).